

I-5 – South 317th Street HOV Direct Access Project Update

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Construction Update

Crews are putting the finishing touches on the temporary roadway in the median. Our plan, weather permitting, is to **shift southbound traffic to the temporary roadway this Thursday night, Oct. 14**, between 11:59 p.m. and 2 a.m.

Last week, crews poured the foundation of the **retaining wall** south of the 317th Street bridge support on the west side of I-5. They are now placing reinforcing steel for the wall panels.

On the east side of I-5, crews completed excavation of the southernmost of the four new **detention ponds**. Two ponds have already been completed. Excavation for the fourth pond began on the west side of the freeway, just north of South 320th Street.

Timber poles for the **temporary lighting system** are now in place on both sides of the freeway, and crews are installing storm sewer **drainage** along the northbound I-5 shoulder.

If you haven't driven on I-5 through Federal Way lately, you can see **recent photos** of the new wall, ponds, and temporary roadway at

http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/photos

Southbound I-5 Traffic Revision and Lane Closures

This Thursday night, Oct. 14, crews will close the two left lanes of I-5 southbound at 7 p.m. Between midnight and 2 a.m. the Washington State Patrol will lead a rolling slowdown. State Patrol cars will act as pilot vehicles, slowing the traffic in the remaining two southbound lanes and leading them onto the temporary roadway while crews close the permanent southbound lanes. The temporary roadway is required for several months while crews replace 42-year-old pavement and build supports for the new South 317th bridge over southbound I-5.

This traffic shift is weather dependent and could be postponed. For more information, read the full press release at <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/news/>.

Construction activities will require various daytime and nighttime closures in the project area this week and next. Once again, watch for daytime single lane closures on I-5 southbound this week. Beginning Monday, Oct. 18, expect weeknight closures of up to

three lanes in each direction of I-5, starting at 7 p.m. each night. The northbound I-5 exit ramp at South 320th Street will close from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. Monday through Thursday nights (Oct. 18-22).

Work Zone Safety Driving Tips

We plan to shift southbound I-5 traffic to the temporary roadway in the median this week. The temporary roadway is 1.3 miles long. There is no shoulder, but there is a two-foot distance from the barrier. Drivers will need to be especially alert to the configuration of the lanes, as when the temporary roadway reaches the South 320th Street bridge, the southbound lanes will be split around the median bridge supports – two lanes on each side.

Here are some general tips on driving through a construction zone to help keep you, other drivers, and construction workers safe.

Pay attention. Dedicate your full attention to the highway and stay alert for signs and flaggers.

Don't speed or tailgate. The posted speed for I-5 through Federal Way is 60 mph. At this speed, your vehicle travels 180-220 feet before you can stop. So if you speed or tailgate, by the time you SEE a problem, you're out of luck!

Minimize distractions. Avoid changing radio stations while driving through a construction zone. And it's always a good idea to avoid using your cell phone while driving, but especially in work zones.

Avoid changing lanes. It's best to wait until you've passed the end of the work zone.

Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Did you know that you can read the text of our radio updates online? If you don't drive through the project area regularly, or if you do and want to confirm what you heard, you can access an archive of all the weekly radio scripts at http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/I5_S317th_DirectAccess/Radio.

AM 1520 is the station on which to hear our project updates while driving on I-5 through Federal Way. If you have any comments on our radio messages, please e-mail Laura Johnson at Johnsol@wsdot.wa.gov.
